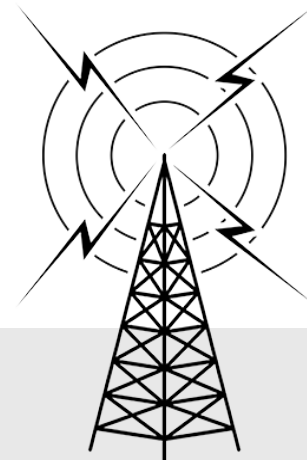




The PARKing Ticket

The Plano Amateur Radio Klub Newsletter

K5PRK.net [Facebook](#) [E-Mail List](#)



Next Meeting - January 20, 2025 - 7:00 pm

Power Safety with ONCOR.

Tommy Nylec, P.E., SR Director of Engineering, Oncor will visit and talk about the electrical grid as we know it. How it works, what challenges it faces, and what to do when there's a power safety issue.

Informal PARK 2-Meter Net

Every **Wednesday night at 8:00pm** on the PARK repeater, 147.180 with a PL tone of 107.2 offset. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join in the conversation. It's a good place to ask about computers, or ham radio subjects, or anything else that's on your mind. We encourage questions and will help you find an answer.

– Michael K5MFP

Upcoming General Meeting Programs

February 17 — Ham Radio in Ireland

Our own Sean Kelly will give a presentation about operating his ham radio in Ireland. Tips, Tricks and some fun stories.

March 17 — DFW NWS

Planned: The DFW National Weather Service will be on hand to talk about weather forecasting in the DFW area, as well as Skywarn as well as the value and opportunities for ham radio operators to be involved.

April 21 — Handy 3D Printing

FDM or 3D printing is a tool that supports anyone interested in building parts that can replace or enhance the hobby and equipment. We will cover the basics of 3D printing, where to get models, how to print them, and some guidelines if you want to start to design your own parts. Our own Anthony Campbell will cover all of this and do a 3D print demo at the same time.

May 19 — NVIS Antennas & You

NVIS is a highly effective and easily deployed solution to wide area coverage emergency and disaster

comms with typical omni directional coverage of around 400 miles centered on your location. PARK's own Larry Randall presents and answers your questions.

June 16 — PARK Field Day

Mike Tharp will lead the overview for our planned 24-hour Field Day operation event- the first since Covid hit in 2020. We'll need overnight operators, campers, astronomers, chefs, visitors, helpers for setup and tear down, and more to make this 2-day event a success. Keep your eye out for the 2025 sign-up form, here:

<https://k5prk.net/field-day>

July 21 — PARK Annual Auction

Spread the word! Bring the Ham Radio gear you no longer use to the auction. Be prepared to look through the tables and tables of gear to find some real bargains, and let the bidding begin! See the full description and rules at:

<https://k5prk.net/club-auction>

Do you have a program suggestion? Send it to our VP, Anthony Burokas - VP@K5PRK.net

PARK Repeaters

The Plano Amateur Radio Klub operates five repeaters, which are located in Allen, Texas about 180 feet above ground level. All licensed amateur operators are welcome to join us on the air.

Our repeaters are open.

147.180 MHz + PL 107.2

K5PRK VHF
Voice Repeater

444.250 MHz + PL 79.7

K5PRK UHF
Voice Repeater

441.575 MHz +

DStar UHF
Digital Voice Port B

1295.000 MHz – 20.000

DStar 23cm
Digital Voice Port B

1255.000 MHz

DStar 23cm Digital Data

Broadcastify

[K5PRK 444.250](https://k5prk.net/444.250)

[K5PRK 147.18](https://k5prk.net/147.18)

If you notice problems with any of the club's repeaters, contact communications@k5prk.net via email with a detailed description of the issue. Thank you.

Officers

President

Tim Johnson,
K5TCJ

Vice President

Anthony Burokas,
KB3DVS

Secretary

B. J. Watkins,
K5BJW

Treasurer

Mike Tharp,
KG5TJF

Activities

Richard Seitz,
KG5HCJ

Communications

Miranda Schwarck,
KE5YZP

Webmaster

James McCormick,
KG5KBP

Public Relations

Rob Forson,
K5WFR

Newsletter

Anthony Burokas
(interim)

From the President

Happy New Year

Thank you to everyone who came to last month's Meeting / Christmas Party. I think we all had a good time with good food, camaraderie, the raffle, and the ever-popular white elephant gift exchange.

And a big thank you to our members who renewed their membership before the end of the year. With that in mind we still have quite a few members who are reminded that it's never too late to renew their membership. I encourage those who have not renewed yet, to renew their membership this month. Your dues allow the continued operation and upgrades to PARKS repeaters, and other sponsored events. And there's camaraderie of attending our monthly meetings and periodic activities on our repeaters.

Neil Gould NE5IL regrets that he can no longer serve as our Newsletter editor. Neil has served in this capacity admirably and has consistently published a newsletter that was timely, informative, and entertaining. We wish Neil and his family well.

So PARK is looking for someone to become our Newsletter editor, If you are willing and able to take this on, please contact me at president@k5prk.net.

Past PARK President Joe Blair N5WB has recently gone SK.

Joe was President of PARK in 1976 and instrumental in helping establish PARK in the early years. Joe's Ham radio activity continued even while living in an assisted living facility. Richard Seitz KG5HCJ (our Activities Director) set up Joe's station at his house, which Joe was able to operate remotely. Well Done, Richard.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2025. Winter Field Day is just around the corner; We're already planning for Field Day in June, and there's a year's worth of contests and other operating events to fill your logbook.

73, and see YOU on the air,



NEWS

PARK Bylaws Update - requiring club member vote.

PARK Members, following the ARRL's suggestion regarding financial practices, and its discussion at PARK's November General Meeting and the December Board of Directors meeting, the following revision to PARK's Constitution / Bylaws is proposed:

Existing Article V Section 5 –

The Treasurer shall receive and receipt all monies paid to this club; shall keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended and shall maintain a double entry bookkeeping system according to accepted accounting practices. The Treasurer shall pay no bills without proper authorization (by the club or its Board of Directors). At the end of each quarter, the Treasurer shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts. A petty cash fund may be established in accordance with the By-Laws.

This proposed revision would add the following to Article V Section 5 above:

“The Board of Directors may at any time, call for an audit of the klub's books / financial records.”

This addition is not a reaction to any issues, but a suggested proactive measure to help safeguard and protect the klub's financial assets, and the klub's Treasurer.

Following PARK's constitutionally required notifications, this proposed revision will be presented and recorded in the minutes of the December 2024 and January 2025 general meetings and brought before the membership for a vote at the February 2025 general meeting.

General Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2024 General Meeting Minutes & Christmas Party

Officers Present: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Public Relations Director, Activities Director, Communications Director, Newsletter Editor, Past President

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Tim Johnson

First reading of proposed amendment/addition to club Constitution and By-Laws.

This is the first of two readings of the amendment as required by the Constitution. The proposal will be voted on in the February General Meeting.

Question posed by Anthony Campbell - "What are the current audit procedures".

The response was that there are currently no formal audit procedures stated in the Constitution or By-Laws.

Party ended at 8:45 p.m.

=====

What is Amateur Radio

Amateur radio is a multifaceted hobby that includes people around the world. There are about 740,000 ham radio operators in the US. The FCC has allocated [30 different frequency bands](#) from 135 KHz to greater than 275 GHz to amateur radio operators. These frequency bands are used for many different aspects of the hobby. Some videos describing Amateur Radio:

<https://youtu.be/ysOq6ywTSzU>

<https://youtu.be/rs0i0h4OyMo>

https://youtu.be/5Z9136_Nhh4 - Classic Walter Cronkite video

ARRL Information

QST - ARRL's Monthly Membership Magazine - www.arrl.org/qst

On the Air - NEW! Beginner to intermediate level help and advice - www.arrl.org/On-the-Air-Magazine

QEX - The Forum for Communications Experimenters - www.arrl.org/QEX

NCJ - National Contest Journal - www.arrl.org/NCJ

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday.

Licensing:

There are [3 levels of ham radio licensing](#) in the US, Technician, General, and Extra. Each level requires

passing a multiple choice exam. The questions used for these exams are all [published on the web](#).

Study Aids:

- Take a class
- Training books
- YouTube videos
- Tutorial websites
- Downloadable apps

[ARRL Technician Study Guide](#)

[ARRL General License](#)

View video classes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vG2S_xV3zJE&t=0s

Take practice Exams

<https://www.eham.net/exams>

Exams are offered by many clubs [around the metroplex](#).

Other Ham Radio Related Links:

Sachse Radio Club: <http://www.sachseradio.org/>

Largest/Oldest Ham Radio Org: <http://www.arrl.org/home>

Local Ham Radio Outlet Store <https://www.hamradio.com/locations.cfm?storeid=20>

Finding a nearby Club: <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>

Ham Radio Mesh Network: <https://www.arednmesh.org/aredn-advantage>

Amateur Radio Satellites: <https://www.amsat.org/>

Ham Radio Repeaters: <https://www.repeaterbook.com/>

Cartoons: Thanks to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Amateur.Radio.Funnies>

Join PARK - Membership: <https://k5prk.net/dues>

Looks like the perfect day to get my new dipole in the air!



NETS on the air

Sunday 8:00 PM – McKinney Amateur Radio Club General Information Net Discuss your week in ham radio and thoughts on a question of interest to the ham community. W5MRC Repeater 146,740- MHz (110.9)

1st Sunday 9:00 PM - Collin County ARES - K5PRK repeater 147.180+ MHz, (107.2) All welcome.

3rd Sunday 9:00 PM – Collin County ARES - W5MRC repeater 146.740- MHz (110.9) Hz All welcome.

M

1st and 3rd Mondays 8:00 PM - The MARC Ladies Net – All radio amateurs are welcome. W5MRC repeater 146.740- MHz (110.9)

Monday 8:30 PM – MARC Simplex net
See how far your VHF radio can go without a repeater Along with general discussion. 146.540 MHz Since this is simplex, no offset or tone are required.

Tu

Tuesday 8:00 PM – Lucas Open Net
The Lucas Amateur Radio Club holds an informal net open to all Amateur Radio operators. K5LFD Repeater (442.2125 MHz, +5.0 MHz (91.5)

2nd and 4th Tuesday at 8:30pm – Mesquite RACES/ ARES Net 145.31- (162.2)

W

Wednesday 8:00 pm – PARK Informal Net
Everyone is welcome, not net control. K5PRK repeater 147.180+ MHz, (107.2)

Wednesday 8:00 pm – Simplex Net
An informal repeaterless net on 146.54 MHz to gauge the effectiveness of our VHF capabilities.

Th

Thursday 8:00 pm – GARC Info net
The Garland Amateur Radio Club holds an informal net open to all amateur radio operators. K5QHD Repeater 146.66- MHz, (110.9)

Thursday at 8:00 pm - Denton County ARES Training Net 146.920

F

North Texas Hospital Radio Club weekly check in
Friday mornings (time TBD 8:30 am or 9 am). Jimmy Dominguez is NCS. 442.400/146.700. Regular splits PL tones 110.9/110.9. All are welcome to check in from your QTH as individual.

Know of another? E-mail Newsletter@K5PRK.net

[Search for 100s of nets.](#)

Contests

[2024-2025 ARRL Contest Dates PDF](#)

A complete list of special event stations is available at www.arrl.org/special-event-stations.

2025 Youth on the Air Camp Application Period Open

Applications are now being accepted for campers interested in attending the 2025 Youth on the Air Camp. Licensed amateur radio operators, ages 15 through 25, who want to attend are encouraged to apply online at YouthOnTheAir.org. The camp is scheduled to take place June 15 - 20, 2025, in Thornton (Denver), Colorado and the [Denver Radio Club](#), an ARRL Affiliated Club, is the local host.

The current application period is for the fifth camp for young amateur radio operators in North, Central, and South America. For the best chance at being selected, applications should be submitted by 2359Z on January 15, 2025. Campers will be selected by the working group and notified by February 1.

To encourage attendance from across the Americas, allocations for campers are being held open for various areas of North, Central, and South America. If countries do not use their allocation or should someone within an allocation decline acceptance, those positions will be filled from the remaining pool of applicants. As this will be an ongoing process, everyone will not receive notification of acceptance at the same time. Preference will be given to first-time attendees.

Applications will continue to be accepted through May 1 and up to 50 campers will be accepted. The application process is free, but a \$100 USD deposit is required upon acceptance. Should a potential camper be unable to pay the \$100 deposit, they may apply for a scholarship or waiver. Campers are also responsible for their own arrival and departure transportation to the camp location. Travel assistance may also be available, especially for those traveling from outside of the USA and Canada. Travel during camp events is provided.

For details about the camp, visit the camp web page at YouthOnTheAir.org or email Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, at director@youthontheair.org.